

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

urg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers*
and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

Tuesday, April 25. 1704.

I Have but one Article to add to this Head, of the King of *France's* Absolute Government of his People, and that relates to his being Obey'd at Home.

'Tis true, the little Insurrection in the *Cevennes*, is an Exception to the General Character of the French Submission; but if we consider the intollerable Pressure those People lie under, the Zeal they always had for their Religion, together with the Nature of the Mountainous People, which is known to be Fierce, Rash, and Desperate; add to this the Situation of their Country, the inaccessible of their Mountains, to which they Retreat, the Numbers of People in the Country round, who were Friends to their Design, tho' afraid to venture: If we also consider the Circumstances of the French Affairs at the time they took up Arms, when they had good Reason to believe their hands were too full to spare a Number of Troops to Suppress them; we have more Reason to wonder this Rebellion has spread no farther, and that all *Languedoc* at least was not up in Arms.

And had not the Situation of the Country had this particular disadvantage to them, that no Foreign Power has been able to Assist them: I make no Question but the Seat of the War had been removed before

now, from *Italy* into *Languedoc*, *Guienne*, or *Dauphiné*.

I cannot but observe, before I quit this Head, That in my Opinion our States-men who pretend they care not to assist the *Camisars*, that it is Dishonourable to Encourage Rebellions and Insurrections in our Neighbours Dominions, and may prove of ill Example to our own: 'Tis my Opinion, these Gentlemen having first found the thing it self Impracticable, were rather willing to give a *sham Reason* for not Attempting it, than confess the Improbability, or afterwards be Reflected upon for Attempting what was unlikely to succeed.

'Tis true the King of *France* in his Letter to the Pope, Charges the Duke of *Savoy* with Corresponding and Encouraging the *Camisars*, and tells how "they reckoned in *England* and *Holland*, as well as at *Vienna*, upon the Progress of the Phanaticks in *Languedoc*, on the Intelligence held by the Duke of *Savoy* with these Rebels, and the Succour he would send them.

If we did reckon so in *England*, I am sorry we were Mistaken; I confess I never was of the Opinion, that the Duke of *Savoy* in the best Circumstances we could expect to see him, could ever be able to pals the *Rheine*.

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We know he has a great deal of Work cut out for him; and suppose him very Fortunate and Successful, he must do more than any, or than all the Powers of Christendom have been able to do: the Glories and Conquests of King *William* shall be Trifles to his, and he shall be my Hero as long as I can write, or any Man can read; if he be able to Face the Duke de *Vendosme*, carry on a War in the *Milanese*, against an Army of 50000 *French* and *Spanish* Troops, Defend himself against the Duke de *Feuillade* on the side of *Nice*, and the Marshal de *Tesse*, or whoever shall Succeed him on the Frontiers of *Dauphiné*, and at the same time force his way thro' the Heart of *Provence*; Pass the Greatest River on that side of *Europe*, the *Rhone*; beat the Marshal de *Montrevel*, and joyn the *Camisars*.

I think I am within Bounds, if I say the Year the Duke of *Savoy* does all this, he may e'en Traverse the whole Kingdom of *France*, advance to the Capital, and sit down under the Walls of *Paris*.

And therefore I must ask his most Christian Majesty's Pardon, if I do not agree with that part of his Letter to the Pope, and cannot think that the *English* or *Dutch*, or the Duke of *Savoy* himself, could build their Hopes on the Success of those Poor People, or on the Hopes of joyning them.

If ever the *Camisars* are reliev'd, it must be by strong Diversions, which must oblige the King to withdraw his Troops, and leave the *Camisars* Room to Descend from the fastnesses of the Mountains, possess themselves of the plain Country, and open the Door of Deliverance on the Inside, for from without, it cannot be expected, but by Means wholly Preternatural and Miraculous.

If the Duke of *Savoy* can be put into a Posture to do this, I believe all the Members of the Confederacy will be heartily glad; and there is no doubt, but as we are Protestants, we should all be glad to see the *Camisars* strong enough to Establish themselves in the full Possession of their Liberty, as to Religion, and become a Body able to Capitulate with their King, for Restoring the Publick Exercise of the Protestant Worship.

As to Relieving them, and Supplying them with Arms and Money, 'tis wasting our Time to Debate, whether 'tis Lawful or not, when we have once found that 'tis not Practicable: Let but any of those Gentlemen make it out to me, that it is to be done, and shew the Possibility of the thing, I'll enter upon the Legality and Honour of it with them, with all my Heart.

We have, as I am inform'd, a Book Publish'd, Entitled *Europe Enslav'd*, if the *Camisars* are not Reliev'd, or to that purpose, I am far from being of that Gentleman's Opinion; *Europe* was in but a very sorry Case, if her Liberty depended upon the Relief of this Poor, Despicable handful of Men, who tho' we were willing to Acknowledge all they have done to be as great as has been Related, yet have no way Influenced the Affairs of *Europe*, other than the small Diversion they have given the *French*, in Employing 18 Battalions of Foot, and 2 Regiments of Dragoons in *Languedoc*, which otherwise must have been found by way of Addition in some other Place.

But that *Europe* is any nearer Slavery, than she was before, tho' these Miserable People were all Destroy'd; I can by no means allow any more, than *Europe* is to be Enslav'd, if the *Hungarian* Rebels are not Suppress'd.

I cannot but Declare against the haste these Men are in, to have that done, which they cannot shew us the way to do, and which all the Methods they have offer'd, are as far from Effecting, that they cannot amount to so much as a Rational Probability.

This most particular Gentleman proposes Landing 6000 *French* Refugees, under the Protection of an *English* Fleet, in the Gulph of *Lyons*, but will not tell us where, lest the Enemy should Fortify it, as it the *French* did not already know as well as we can propose, what Place is most Expos'd; we do not find them so Ignorant in other Parts of their Country.

But if 6000 Men were Landed, the Marshal de *Montrevel* would give but a very indifferent Account of himself, if he suffer'd 6000 Men to March 25 Leagues by

by Land unfought with; when to be sure he will at least have three times their Number of Troops; he must not Act like a Marshal of *France*, nor be fit to be Truſted with the Command of an Army.

'Tis certain, to Land 6000 Men in ſuch a manner, would be to ſacrifice ſo many Brave Lives to a Deſperate Project, and in which there would not be likelihood enough to Juſtify it to Common Diſcretion; and I dare ſay no General Officer in *Europe* would have Foreſight little enough to accept the Command of them.

If *Europe* muſt be Enſlav'd unleſs theſe unlikely things are done, 'tis very ſtrange the Princes of the Confederacy have never thought fit to undertake it; nor, as I can underſtand, ſo much as ever conſulted about it; 'tis ſtrange they ſhould not ſee the Danger to themſelves all this while, and conſequently make the ſtrong-eſt Efforts, where they ſaw ſo much Neceſſity.

Our Concern for them, as Proteſtants, is what it ought to be, and we are juſtly led to pity them. A Chriſtian Compaſſion is due to them, and no Man can read

the Story of their Sufferings, without being touch'd with the Senſe of their Miſeries. But we cannot undertake Impoſſibilities; we can no more Relieve them, till it ſhall pleaſe God to give ſome farther Succels to the Confederate Forces, (than we yet ſee a Proſpect to hope for), than we can over-run *France*, or beat the *French* Armies out of the Field.

I heartily wiſh this was not true, and that they who are ſo eager for this Work, would find out a ſealible way to bring it to paſs.

The only way I know, is for the Marshal de *Montrevel* to make another Ravage, and Deſtroy all that part of *Languedoc* with Fire and Sword: This would make all the reſt of the People Deſperate, and in time they would all fly to the *Camifars*, and ſo they might come to be 30 or 40000; and then perhaps they might extend themſelves to the Sea Coaſt, and ſecure ſome ſmall Port, from whence they might be furniſh'd by Sea, with Arms and Ammunition, and then their Deliverance would be probable; but till then I give them over for loſt.

Mercure Scandale :

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ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

THIS Paper having been Treating of the *Camifars*, it cauſ'd the Society to call before them the Author of the *Daily Courant*, who was accuſed of Scandalizing the poor Proteſtants of the *Cevennes*, and charging them with moſt unheard of Cruelties and Barbarities; which he was deſir'd to produce his Authorities to prove.

The Paper was produc'd and read, *Courant* March... 1704.

The *Camifars* Deſcending into the plain Country, had begun their accuſtomed Cruelties and Barbarities, in Pulling down Croſſes and Demoliſhing Churches.

Being Demanded whether theſe Croſſes were living Creatures or no; he answer'd No: And being then at a loſs how to make out the Cruelties of pulling them down, he was oblig'd to ſubmit; and the Clerk read on:

Courant, March 11.

The Duke of Mole's Eſtate was Conſiſcated at Naples, he being found Guilty of Felony againſt the King.

The Society Demanded of him what ſort of Crime that muſt be; he Inſtanc'd in his Conſpiring with the *Impetialists*, but cou'd not make it out to be Felony; for it muſt be Treason or nothing.

Where.

Whereupon he was Order'd to write to the Vice-Roy, to Demand the Duke's Estate again, or else to let us know his Crime.

Courant, March. 30.

One of our Parties in *Flanders*, surpriz'd an Out-Guard of the Enemies, and might have taken several of their Horses, if the Enemy had not come and made them run away.

This was such remarkable News, and so Good, the Society thank'd him for it; for by the same Rule, they might have taken all *Flanders*, if No Body had beat them away.

The *Flying-Post* had a long Charge brought against him, but there not being Time to go thro' with it, the Club began with his Paper of *April* the 11th.

The King of Poland has an Army of 50000 Pound.

The *Post-Boy* of the same date tells us;

The Earl of Marlborough Embark'd for *Flanders*.

Ditto.

The Laboratory at Munick was blown up, by which the Hungarians will have a great loss.
Post-Boy March. 30.

The Packet-Boat was driven back to Harwich by a North-West Wind; which every Man knows is the fairest Wind can blow for them.

The Nonfence of all these things had their Due Censure, and are referr'd to the Next sitting.

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